

Portugal Statement  
Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space |  
64<sup>th</sup> session

Agenda Item 3, “General Exchange of Views”

Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente

Chair, Distinguished Representatives

1. As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor in this session, I would like to salute you, Professor Ripol Carulla, and wish you all the best in conducting the work of this session, which I am sure will be productive. You can count on all our delegation's best endeavours in this regard. I would also like to express the Secretariat our recognition for their excellent work in supporting the current session and the ongoing works.
2. Further to the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union - which we fully support in all its extension, including in the references to the current situation in Ukraine -, we would like to convey some additional points in this Subcommittee.

Chair,

3. Portugal has revised its **national space legislation** to regulate the licensing of space ports, thereby helping to facilitate access to space, an issue of particular importance in European territory. The model follows a business approach, always based on the state's responsibility for regulating and licensing private space activities, a fundamental principle of international space law that Portugal is proud to follow. Both Portuguese and English version can be found on the Portuguese Space Agency site.
4. Besides a robust legal framework, one of the goals of Portugal's national space strategy is a strong focus in capacity development on Earth observation, space education and international collaboration. As such, in cooperation with UN OOSA, the **UN-Portugal Outer Space Fellowship** will be launch in the coming months. This is a capacity building program to promote space activities and partnerships, supporting developing countries in the sustainable development of their own national space strategies. This Fellowship is designed to continue in subsequent years, also in line with both the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNOOSA Strategic Initiatives 2025-2030.

5. We are all aware of the importance of capacity building and, in the case of this Subcommittee, notably of the awareness of and adherence to international space law as the corner stone of all space activities. Portugal was glad to contribute to the **“Space law for new space actors”** project and to assist the Office in Technical Advisory Missions, with the technical participation of national legal expert.

Chair,

6. The works of the current session are indeed challenging.
7. Regarding **Space Resources**, we would like to start by, again, express our sorrow on the passing of Emb Andrzej Misztal to the Polish delegation. Emb Misztal was a very respected and cherished member of the space community. Looking ahead of us, a deep recognition to Prof. Steven Freeland for having prepared the Initial Draft Set of Recommended principles for Space Resource Activities. We are confident that, already this session, both in formal and informal meetings of the working group, tangible progress can be made, especially on Part 1, as this is, truly, a pressing topic that urges to be properly addressed by the international community as a whole, as the only way to, indeed, preserve space, also as a resource.
8. We are also looking forward to the continuity of the informal consultations of the **Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC)**, a mechanism that is of fundamental importance as lunar activities becomes increasingly recurrent by different space actors and different latitudes.
9. Portugal supports Germany’s proposal regarding the kick off in studying **Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic**, and identify legal and policy aspects related to space traffic coordination and management, taking into account several levels of best practices, norms and regulations besides the international legal framework governing outer space activities, as we believe that the envisaged outcome can be a very useful instrument to support Member States addressing space traffic management, with both the accuracy and flexibility necessary.
10. And a final word to welcome again the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law Annual Space Law Symposium, this year on **Due Regard in Outer Space**, an essential principle to minimize conflict and reduce risk, thus allowing the balanced development of the so called upon principle of freedom of use and exploration of outer space.

Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.